

OLD SUPERSTITIONS.

ORIGIN OF "THE TALISMAN," MADE FAMOUS BY SCOTT.

Tales of Amulets Which Possessed Wor derful Powers-Belief That Kings Could Cure Diseases by Laying On of Hands Banishing a Plague from a Scotch Town

An eastern story called "The Talisman one of Walter Scott's best rome published in 1825. The incident from which the romance derived its name is this: A knight's squire has been cured of a severe illness by an Arabian physician sent by Saladin, who has heard that King Richard, dangerously ill, has been given over by his doctors, who were not very well instructed at

The Saracen, who really is Saladin in disguise and known only as El Hakim (the physician), is entirely trusted by Richard, who piaces high confidence in the honor of the Soldan, his enemy. El Hakim produces a small silken bug, made of net work twisted with silver, containing something heavy, which he immerses in a cup of spring water and retains it therein for a few minutes. The king empties the cup at a draught, and falls back on his couch as if exhausted; is left to rest in quiet, and when he awakens some hours after the fever has wholly left him, without the necessity of his taking a second dose. The silken purse had contained a

At the conclusion of the romance Sir Ken neth, the disguised son of the king of Scotland, was married to Edith Plantagenet Richard's cousin, and Scott says: "It is still in existence, having been bequeathed by the Earl of Huntingdon to a brave knight of Scotland, Sir Simon of the Lee, in whose ancient and honorable family it is still preserved; and although charmed stones have been dismissed from the modern pharmacoposia, its virtues are still applied to for stopping blood and in cases of carine mad-

The talisman is still preserved. It is called the Lee Penny, or the Lee Stone. It is an heirloom in the ancient Scottish family of Lockhart, and derives its distinctive title from the estate of Lee, in the west of

The Lee Penny is a stone of a dark red color and triangular shape, and it measures about half an inch on each side. It is set in a piece of silver coin much defaced, on which a few letters may still be deciphered. Antiquarians have declared that this inscription resembles that on the shilling of Edward I. Once a lapidary was allowed to examine this talisman and found it was a stone-but of what kind he could not tell.

The traditional account of this Lee Penny, as delivered by the family which has possessed it for over 560 years, is singular enough. Robert Bruce, king of Scotland, dving in 1329, left a will which directed Lord James Douglas commonly called the Good, to convey his heart to the Holy Land to be buried in Jerusalem-hence, a heart, crowned and bleeding, appears in the armorial bearingsof the Douglas family to this day. Douglas went to fight the Saraceus in Spain instead of going direct to Palestine, was slain in battle, and the persou who carried Bruce's heart to its destination was one Simon Lee, who, to commem-orate his achievement, took the name of Lock-heart, putting on his shield a heart within a lock

In the Holy Land this gallant gentleman fought flercely against the Saracens. Having captured an emir in battle, the aged mother of that prince came to ransom him. As was his right, Lockhart exacted as large a sum as possible, which the old lady was willing to pay-partly in cash, partly in jew-els. Taking the latter out of her purse, there fell out of it a stone set in a silver coin, and she picked this up with so much haste and anxiety that the Scottish knight became assured that it must be far more valuable than it appeared. He refused to liberate the emir unless that amulet were given him. After many refusals the lady consented and delivered it to him, explaining how it was to be used and what wondrous healing virtues it

James Lockhart, then laird of Lee, for curing diseases by witchcraft, but on trial the Lee Penny was solemnly pronounced to be an annulet, "to which it had pleased God to annex certain healing virtues which the church did not presume to condemn."

When the plague was in the town of Newcastle, on the borders of Scotland, the inhabitants borrowed the Lee Penny, giving a bond to a very considerable amount for its safe re-The plague suddenly disappeared, which the inhabitants attributed to the talisman, which they offered to purchase at a large cost, but the owner refused.

In the reign of William III a ludy of rank near Edinburgh, litten by a mad dog, bor-rowed the stone, drinking and bathing in the water in which it had been dipped, and at-tributed her complete cure to its use. This water, called Lockerice water, is in high re-pute throughout the west of Scotland. In Hone's "Table Book" is a short description of the Lee Penny, with an accurate engraving of it. In the top of the silver setting is a little chain, by which it was held while the process of dipping it into the water was per-

The inhabitants of Persia, Arabia, Turkey and Egypt have very great faith in amuless and talesmans, believing that to wear them will prevent accidents and even cure dis-Walter Scott did not disbelieve the virtues of the Lee Penny, though he did not explain why. He hinted that imagination might have a good deal to do with any cures attributed to it.

In Hone's "Table Books he says: "There are some ludicrous instances of wonderful cures performed in the north of England on credulous people, by virtue of water wherein the Lee Penny was reputed to have been dupped, and yet neither the water nor the Lee enny had crossed the Tweed."

The Les Penny cures are not more incredible than the popular belief that prevailed for many centuries that the British sovereign had the power of curing discuses by touching

#### "Safe and Certain"

S the testimony of Dr. George E. Waller, of Martinsville, Va., in reference to Ayer's Pills. Dr. J. T.

Teller, of Chittenange, N. Y., says :-"Ayer's Pills are highly appreciated. "Ayer's Fills are highly appreciated. They are perfect in form and coating, and their effects are all that the most careful physician could desire. They have supplemented all the pills formerly popular here, and I think it must be long before any other can be made that will at all compare with them. Those who buy Ayer's Fills get full value."

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the part affected. Especially was this the case in regard to the disease known as scrof-ula, or king's evil. Edward the Confessor ula, or king's evil. Edward the Confessor nine centuries ago, "touched" many of his subjects. Chroniclers differ in opinion on the question whether this power was due to the special piety of Edward, or whether it was inherent in the blood of the Saxon kings. To what extent the Norman kings followed the seals in part brown but Henry II care the example is not known, but Henry II cer-tainly "touched."

The ceremony was more or less continues to the Eighteenth century. The Stuarts be lieved in it, or at any rate accommodated the belief of it in the minds of other persons. William III did not. Macaulay says that when the king heard that his palace was besieged by a crowd of sick persons toward the close of Lent he exclaimed; "It is a silly superstition; when the poor creatures some porsition; give the poor creatures some money and send them away." And when, on a particular occasion, a patient was importuning for a touch, William said: "God give you better health—and more sense." How far the hope of some little pecuniary advantage influenced the patient it would be difficult to the contract of t cult to decide.-Troy Times.

PENNY POSTAGE.

Wonderful Changes That Have Taken Place

On Friday, Jan. 10, 1840, there came into operation in this country one of those great measures of social reform which may be said to constitute the landmarks of a nation's progress—the uniform penny postage system. This measure, originating with a private in-dividual who, up to the age of 37, had been a schoolmaster, and who was wholly uncon nected either with the postoffice or the gov-ernment, has, in the last half century, revointionized the postal service of the world, and made the name of its author-the late Sir Rowland Hill-a household word in every civilized country.

To the present generation the old postal system, which was swept away by Rowland Hill's reform, is now so much a matter of ancient history, and of history but little studied, that probably very few have any conception of the state of affairs which existed in this country at a date no further removed than the early years of her majesty's

Up to 1840 the postoffice, so far as the poor and the lower middle class was concerned, may be said to have been almost non-exist-The rates charged on letters were in these days so exorbitant, especially when compared with the scanty wages then obtain able, that correspondence was a luxury for costly for all but the well to do. Even in the upper middle classes the cost of postage was a heavy item of household expenditure, only to be incurred after much careful consideration; but the vast multitude of the lower orders were practically excluded from all use of the postoffice. When once their families parted off from home it was a separation almost like that of death. The bundreds of thousands of apprentices, of shop-men, of governesses, of domestic servants were cut off from family relations as if seas or deserts lay between them and bome.

Except in the local town deliveries-technically known as "penny posts"—the lowest charge on any letter was four pence, but that only sufficed for a distance of fifteen miles; beyond that radius the rates of postage rapidly increased with the distance the letter had to be conveyed, till letters from London to Liverpool or Manchester were charged eleven pence, those to Edinburgh or Glasgow one shilling four and one-half pence, and to Cork or Londonderry, one shilling five pence, and even these exorbitant rates were at once doubled or trebled if the letter, however light, contained one or more inclosures, or consisted of two or three pieces of paper. Thus a letter consisting of a sheet of paper and a check, with an envelope to inclose them, which now goes from London to Cork for one penny, would, prior to 1840, have been treated as a treble letter, and charged four shillings and three pence, or more than fifty fold the pres

Letters in those days were almost always sent unpaid, and were in many cases refused by the persons to whom they were addressed, especially by those of the poorer classes, so that the postoffice constantly overshot its mark in its endeavor to make a great profit, and had to carry the letter from the writer to the addressee, and after all to lose the whole postage. The old high rates of postage simply killed all domestic or friendly corre-On one occasion complaint was made in Scottish ecclesiastical courts against Sir and in proof of this Rowland Hill, in 1847, in the twenty years ending with 1885 (during which period the trade and population of the United Kingdom had greatly increased), the revenue of the postoffice had remained sta-tionary. As an instance of the extraordinary charges sometimes made under the old system, it is stated that in 1839 Sir John Burgone wrote to complain that for a packet of papers sent to him at Dublin, from some other part of Ireland by mail coach, as a letter instead of a parcel, he had been charged a postage of £11. That is to say, for a packet which he could easily have carried in his pocket he was charged a sum for which he could have engaged the whole mail coach.—
London Standard.

The People of Paraguay.

Asuncion women, though always barefoot, the clothes were clean, hair nicely combed, and the little but, as a rule, scrupulously neat and only containing one room, with a shed attached. The furniture consisted of a bed-stead, a hammock, home made chairs and always a wooden vessel in which the corn is pounded. Each day the women thus manufacture their flour for the day's use.

My curiosity to see something of the home life of the poorer class was gratified by stopping to rest at one of the huts. There was the cotton growing in the yard, and I saw our hostess in her picturesque costume gather it with her own hands and spin thread with no machinery whatever, only skillfully twisting it in her tingers.

My bedroom consisted of a hammock tied to two posts in the yard; and my dressing room was a cleared space behind the rancho, with a nice carpet of green. The skill of these lowly women is simply wonderful. At another place we stopped we saw the women making the beautiful nanduti lace, so famous

id this country. These poor people are very hospitable, seeming to take such genuine pleasure in making strangers welcome and studying their comfort. At one time finding myself far ahead of the party, I, with the servant, stopped at a little but to rest our horses and get a drink, writes a correspondent. Though the old woman of the place talked quarum (Indian), and could not understand my Span-ish, she was not contented to give me a chair, but put up a hammock, asking me if I did not

prefer to lie down. I found that during the warmest weather (mid-summer this was, in January) the natives are all in the habit of sleeping in their hammocks, and it did not take me long to discover how much cooler and more comfortable hammocks were than ordinary beds -New York Journal.

England's Water Supply. Taking Eugland all over, it may be estimated that the average supply of water per head afforded by the various waterworks is between thirty and thirty-three gallons. Probably about one-fifth of that quantity is used for trade purposes, chloroform are made; the article of dress is leaving from twenty-four to twenty-six dried in a 'whiz,' or revolving tub, by cengallous per head daily for domestic use, trifugal force; it is then hung up in the ho This seems a large amount, and there is no doubt that at least half of it is absolutely wasted. Considering that the price of water comes to something like chloroform solution before steaming, and £25 per million gallons, it will be seen clothes that are only slightly soiled we that a saving of 3,500 gallons or so per merely sponge the stains out of and finish head every year would represent a considerable amount of money. The total sum thrown away on account of this such things?" waste must amount to nearly a million dry process. This means the application of and a quarter steriing annually



EVERYBODY USES IT.

EVERY ONE FINDS A NEW USE.

OLD CLOTHES MADE NEW.

RIVAL EXPERTS GIVE INFORMATION ABOUT A CURIOUS CRAFT.

ouring, Dyeing and Patching the Gar ments That Have Seen Better Days. The Old Fashioned, Simple Process, and the Methods of a "Scientific" Cleaner.

One whole side of the shop was hung with what some people call "pants," in regimental order, dangling two by two from frames in a serried column, awaiting occupancy by their several owners. All of them were spick passed through the cleaning mill. In fact, that was precisely what the establishment might properly be termed. The sign outside said: "Steam Dyeing and Scouring."

A rather dilute specimen of youthful man-hood with insipient side whiskers and a shrill voice was engaged at the moment in submit-ting to the notice of the attendant a grease spot of considerable size on that portion of the trousers he wore which is ordinarily concealed from view by the coat tails.

"I told you when you brought them here," said the shopman, "that cod liver oil was the one thing we couldn't remove from cloth. The only thing I can suggest is to cut out the stain and put in a patch.

The young man posed himself between two opposite mirrors, and, with coat tails still uplifted, surveyed with evident dissatisfaction an endless perspective of stylish customers. with unpleasant stains on the seats of their pantaloons, extending in a line toward Penn vlvania ave "I'don't think I would care to have that

done. They're my very best trousers, you see," he replied, gravely, and a moment later he walked out.

The writer, who had come in just in time to witness this performance, asked how it

was that pantaloons and other clothes were

"The process is very simple," the shop man said. "It is merely a matter of soap and hot water. A pair of pants, say—and the same thing applies to other clothing—is first thrown into a big kettle of hot—not boiling -water and allowed to soak for half an hour. Then they are taken out and laid upon an inclined trough like table for scouring. This i done with a sponge, a stiff brush and quanti-ties of ordinary soft soap. First the outside of the garment is cleaned by rubbing with the sponge and scraping with the brush, and next the inside, turned inside out, is treated

in the same way,
"When this has been done, the pants are thoroughly rinsed in three successive editions of cold water, and, after being wrung out, are hung up in the hot air room to dry. nally they are pressed out, and then they are ready for delivery. In cases where goods left here are very moderately dirty we only dry clean them, that is to say, the spots are taken out with benzine and they are pressed. Like most cleaners, we do mending and repairing, and it is no unusual thing for us to have a customer who takes it for granted that, for the small amount we charge, the clothes be wishes to have cleaned will be made over again, as to buttons and patches, like new, incidentally. Very many articles are left on our hands, mostly by people who find themselves unable to pay the charges upon them. Impecuniousness is the reason for such failure, but it would surpris you to know how many of our customers die or get into jail, so that they can't very well take their things away. All that line of coats and pants along the rear wall belonged once to men now dead."

"How do you dispose of such things!" asked the newspaper man. "To ordinary customers. People often ment or that to sell cheap. As a rule we have something of the sort desired. We never sell to the second hard clothing men,

because they don't pay fair prices." The view of this interesting subject taken by an expert whose sign hung out only a few doors away was very different. Said he:
"It must have been one of these cheap cleaners that you interviewed. There is a primitive method practiced by such as they. with soap and warm water, which does very well for amateurs. But did you ever see a grease spot destroyed by soap and water Hardly, I think. It will disappear tempora-rily, only to come out again as offensive as ever after a little dust has had time to settle upon it. To really cleanse a pair of pantaloons, for instance, a much more elaborate method of procedure must be adopted. In this establishment a scientific system does the work. To begin with, all the men's clothing that is brought in is divided into three classes-very dirty, moderately dirty and comparatively clean. The three grade represent protty accurately three corresponding classes of customers. It is undesirable to mix them up. Suppose—to take an extreme case—the germs of some disease wer present in a certain coat; they might be communicated to other garments, and our business would suffer. Therefore it is that after the clothes to be stitched have had numbers statched into them with white cotton, for purposes of identification, the fore man divides them up.

"And the very dirty onesf" "They have first applied to them a solution of chioroform, ether and benzine in equal parts with water. Next they are placed in machine by which steam is forced through them at a tremendous pressure. What is the result? I can best explain it by referring to the chief disadvantage of the primitive process. Consider, if you please, that each piece of cloth has three sides, a right side, wrong side and an inside. The inside is the web and woof of the material. Get a bad grease spot on your trousers, of course it goes right through the stuff and no amount ordinary soop and water will remove it. You may sponge it out of the right side and the wrong side, but it still remains in the substance of the inside, and sooner or later it will reappear on the surface. We avoid all this by forcing the dirt out on the surface with the steam blast and washing it away as it comes. After the steam two more applications of the benzine, ether and room to dry, and is subsequently presed for delivery. There is no sort of spot that will not come out after that treatment. Moderately dirty things we treat but once with the

"And how is it about women's dresses and

Volatile, you know, leaving the fabric dry Viatile, you know, leaving the fabric dry a second or two after they are put on. Just how they are used is a secret of the trade which I am not at liberty to disclose. Most cleaners employ benzine liberally, but in this shop as little of it is employed as possible, though it is a powerful cleaner, because it is a greasy fluid, and clothes treated with it catch dust readily afterwand. The most difficult thing to clean is velvet. To make it like new costs about \$1 a yard, and few customers are willing to pay that."—Washington Stat.

-New York Sun. thing more than just dogs. They're not no one would suppose that they are anybrutes to indicate any special breed, and manner. There is nothing about the tail that is always twitching in a nervous has a woolly coat and a little stub of a solemn looking canine, with a coat the color of brown sugar. The other dog of his tail have been cut oil. He is a more noticeable because several inches little bigger than the other, and be is They are both small dogs, but one is a

lown, blink demurely at the public. pear him as possible, and, crouching nte or two on the curb the dogs get as his voice, and when he stands for a min of selling the brutes, but he never rais string. It is supposed that he is desiron big thoroughlares with two dogs on a edd eyed man who wanders along the One of the features of this town is a The Dog Man.

A Wonderful Petrifaction.

Joseph Sweshenger, who resides near Stan ford, writes to The River Press particulars of a wonderful discovery he recently made in an unfrequented mountain near his residence. The discovery consists of a petrified man, with all his limbs in a perfect state of preservation. The body stands by a massive bowlder, of which it seems to have become a part, and rannot be removed without considerable labor and expense. A tiny stream of water, flowing from a spring above, falls directly upon the head of the body, and, after passing over t, loses itself in the surrounding rock.

The body measures 6 feet and 9 inches rom the crown of the head to the soles of the eet, and is well proportioned, the chest and imbs being of ponderous width and size. The features are of a severe Roman type, urmounted by a broad, high forehead and a iuxurious growth of hair, which is as firm as rock itself. A beard reaching to the waist completes a picture which inspires a feeling of awe and reverence in the beholder. Certain hieroglyphics are cut upon the rock, a true copy of which Mr. Sweshenger promises to send us. Thus far he has kept the discovery a secret, but will in due time divulge its locality. It will doubtless attract the samay be realized from it. It is, indeed, a wonderful discovery, indicating as it does that the first inhabitants of this country were giants—Tacoma News.

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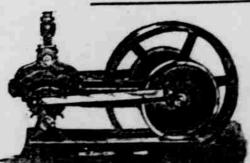
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